

REMARKS

Claim 1, for example, has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 2, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 8, claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 15, and claim 17 has been amended to include correspondingly similar limitations.

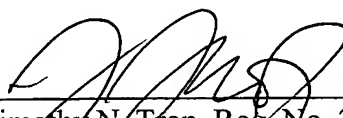
Claim 2 was rejected as obvious over Kostylev or, in the alternative, as anticipated by Kostylev. However, nothing in Kostylev teaches the claimed element of a holding voltage that is 80 percent or more of the threshold voltage of the memory element. It seems to be conceded in paragraph 9 of the office action that this is so.

Thus, the question is whether or not a single reference can render the claimed invention obvious. In general, the viability of a single reference obviousness rejection seems to be doubtful since the single reference must teach some rationale to modify itself and generally that seems to be a very difficult thing for a reference to do. In other words, the reference cannot say what it says and then say to change itself in the way claimed because, if the reference did say such a thing, then it would be a Section 102 reference.

That exception does not occur here since, by reviewing Figure 2, it can be seen that the holding voltage V_H is nowhere close to 80 percent of the threshold voltage V_T . Thus, the cited reference not only fails to teach the claimed invention, but clearly teaches away from it. As a result, a Section 103 rejection based on this single reference should be reconsidered.

Respectfully submitted,

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